

**Survivor says he has learned to forgive killers**

By [JIM GRAY reports](http://www.sligochampion.ie/news/)
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A survivor of the IRA bomb that killed Lord Mountbatten at Mullaghmore thirty years ago has written a graphic account of the atrocity and its aftermath.

Timothy Knatchbull, a grandson of Lord Mountbatten, whose twin brother, Nicholas, also died in the bombing, has said he has learned to forgive those responsible for the killings and explained that he wrote the book "as a personal journey of healing and reconciliation".

His book, 'From a Clear Blue Sky' is to be published by Hutchinson to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the atrocity.

The author was fourteen years old when an IRA bomb exploded on the boat, Shadow V, on which he was fishing with members of his family. As well as Lord Mountbatten and Nicholas Knatchbull, others who died included the author's grandmother, Baroness Brabourne and Paul Maxwell, a teenager from Enniskillen who was working as a crew member.

According to Hutchinson publishing director, Caroline Gascoigne, Mr. Knatchbull's motivation for writing his story was a personal journey of healing and reconciliation and also an attempt to find out what happened.

"Part of the book is an anatomy of an assassination and it's almost like a detective story as he assembles who was doing what and where. It's also a story about twinhood and about losing someone whom you have barely spent a day apart from in your life.

"It's a gripping read from a factual and a psychological point of view, and it's a redemptive book, not a grim one," she says.

It is the story, she adds, of a terrible tragedy that literally tore a family apart as well as providing "an amazing insight into a particular period of Irish history."

Mr. Knatchbull, who now lives in America, where he works as a documentary film-maker for the Discovery Channel, had a miraculous escape from the bombed boat. He was plucked unconscious from the water, seriously injured, deafened and his eyes scorched, and was rushed to Sligo General Hospital, where he eventually recovered. His parents, Lord John and Lady Patricia Brabourne also survived the attack.

It was sixteen years before Mr. Knatchbull underwent bereavement counselling which he believes helped him come to terms with the tragedy.